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4-30-2021

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# Georgia Southern University Athletics



Eagles Take Series Opener From South Alabama, 9-1, In Five Innings

Georgia Southern plates four in the fifth to end the game early and take game one from the Jaguars

Softball

Posted: 4/30/2021 7:37:00 PM

**STATESBORO** - Sophomore [Aaliyah Garcia](#) limited South Alabama to two hits and Georgia Southern pounded out 10 hits and nine runs in five innings to take a 9-1 Sun Belt Conference series-opening win from visiting South Alabama softball on Friday evening at Eagle Field.

The Eagles improve to 12-25 overall and 4-14 in the Sun Belt with the win, while South Alabama falls to 25-14 overall and 12-6 in the league with the loss. Game two of the series will be on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Sophomore Bailee Wilson's first-inning two-run home run off of South Alabama starter Olivia Lackie (15-7) set the tone early as the Eagles jumped out to a 2-0 lead. The Jaguars pushed across an unearned run in the top of the third, but the Eagles answered with a Wilson RBI single in the bottom of the third to make the score 3-1.

An RBI single from [Jess Mazur](#) and an RBI groundout from [Mekhia Freeman](#) pushed the Eagles' lead to 5-1 in the fourth, then Georgia Southern ended the contest with a four-run outburst in the fifth, capped off by a two-run single from Freeman to end the contest.

Garcia, meanwhile, improved to 5-6 with the five-inning two-hitter, giving up the lone unearned run and just one walk while striking out six. Lackie took the loss for the Jaguars, giving up five hits and five runs - four earned - in 3 1/3 innings of work, walking three and striking out four.

"I've been saying this to everybody, that when it clicks, we are going to be one real tough team," Georgia Southern Head Coach [Kim Dean](#) said. "I just kept telling them, 'we are so good.' You've got to believe, and you've got to fight. We are 25 women strong. The team has bought in, everyone believes in each other, and doesn't care who the hero is. All phases of the game were outstanding tonight. We always preach, though, it's not about perfection. We still had two errors. But we don't let it snowball, and don't let it dictate our next play. It's an outstanding feeling, and I'm incredibly proud of them."

Wilson finished the game 3-for-3 with three RBI, while Freeman also drove in three runs with her 2-for-4 night. [Jess Mazur](#) finished 1-for-3 but scored two runs and drove in a pair.

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